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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/712,031 Confirmation No. N/A
Applicant : N. IWAMI et al
Filed : November 14, 2003
Titled : STORAGE SYSTEM
TC/A.U. : TBD
Examiner : TBD
Docket No.: TSM-34
Customer No.: 24956

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop DD
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)
UNDER § 1.97 AND § 1.98

Sir:

1. This IDS should be considered:

(a) when filed within three months of the filing date of the present application, or within three months of the filing date of the National Stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

(b) when filed before the mailing date of either a Final Rejection under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first and when 1(a) does not apply. For this purpose, there is included herein either a certification in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box), or a fee of \$180.00 (a Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed, or if not see section 5 below);

(c) when filed prior to the payment of the Issue Fee, when 1(a)-(b) do not apply, and when a certification is included in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box); then the Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) and request(s) consideration of this IDS, and provided herewith is a fee of \$180.00 (a Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee, or if not see section 5 below).

2. When 1(a)-(c) do not apply, then it is requested that this IDS be placed in the file.

3. Listing of the information submitted is on the attached Form PTO-1449, which forms a part of this IDS. These documents have already been made of record in the case by the Petition to Make Special filed on July 13, 2004. Accordingly, this IDS is considered to be timely.

4. If a fee or additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or additional fee that may be required and credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

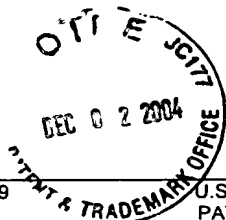
5. No explanation of relevancy is being provided for the following document(s) because each is either in the English language, discussed in the present Specification, or its relevance is as stated in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application.

6. If the PTO determines that part(s) of the required content is inadvertently omitted, then it is requested that the Applicant(s) be given additional time and specific identification of such omission(s) to enable full compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR

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FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 7-80)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. TSM-34		SERIAL NO. 10/712,031		
LIST OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT N. IWAMI et al				
				FILING DATE November 14, 2003		GROUP		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
* EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (If Appropriate)	
	AA	2002/ 0065916	05/30/02	Ooe et al				
	AB	2003/ 0023784	01/30/03	Matsunami et al				
	AC	2003/ 0028731	02/06/03	Spiers et al				
	AD	2003/ 0105767	06/05/03	Sonoda et al				
	AE	2003/ 0225735	12/04/03	Weber				
	AF							
	AG							
	AH							
	AI							
	AJ							
	AK							
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AL						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AM						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AN						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AO						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AP						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)								
	AR							
	AS							
	AT							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED				